

International Commission for



the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries

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Canadian request for advice on the scientific basis for management
of seal fisheries within national fisheries limits

At the request of Canada (Comm.Doc. 77/VI/4), STACRES at the 1977 Annual Meeting of ICNAF provided advice on the scientific basis for management in 1978 of certain fish stocks occurring within national fishery limits. It is now requested that STACRES provide advice on the scientific basis for management in 1978 of stocks of harp seals and hooded seals within national fishery limits in ICNAF Subareas 1, 2, 3, and 4 and Statistical Area 0.

For stocks of both species, it is requested that STACRES comment on the following aspects:

1. Current stock size and pup production and recent trends in these parameters.
2. Maximum sustainable yield at present stock size and in the long term, under varying options of age compositions in the catch, including that recently obtained.
3. Trends in population size based upon differing levels of total allowable catch which incorporate quota regulation of all removals except that by traditional hunting in the Canadian Arctic and at Greenland.

It is suggested that STACRES meet and report during the autumn of 1977, with dates to be established through appropriate consultation.